

Spectator Events

COVID-19 Requirements

Summary of April 9, 2021 changes:

- Added section addressing Phase 2.
- Added language allowing certain spectator activities to follow Phase 3 guidelines regardless whether the county moves back to Phase 2.

Summary of March 26, 2021 changes:

- Added section addressing indoor spectator activities

Included here: stadiums—professional—higher education—and K-12 schools, ballparks, motorsports racetracks, rodeos and similar venues. Also included here: indoor arenas, indoor sports facilities, indoor performance and event facilities, and school graduation ceremonies both indoor and outdoor with permanent or temporary seating.

Not included here: street fairs, park venues or other outdoor venues without permanent seating and similar venues.

Phase 2:

- For indoor spectator events the occupancy of the facility may not exceed 25 percent of the fire code occupancy rating, or 200 people max, whichever is less. For very large venues over 100,000 square feet. in size, the capacity is capped at 300 people. The maximum number includes all participants (performers, athletes, spectators, etc.) except for facility employees.
- For outdoor spectator events the occupancy of the facility may not exceed 25 percent of seated capacity, or 200 people max, whichever is less. Venues without permanent seating must provide 72 square feet per person. For very large venues over two acres in size, the capacity is capped at 300 people. The maximum number includes all participants (performers, athletes, spectators, etc.) except for facility employees.
- Spectator groups from 1-5 people allowed in all facilities, but all spectator groups must maintain 6 feet of distance from other spectator groups.
- Retail shops subject to current guidelines for in-store retail.
- Removal of masks and facial coverings only allowed while actively eating or drinking in assigned seating.
- Lines for food and beverages must be marked to ensure 6 feet a distance between each person waiting in line.
- Lines for restrooms must be marked to ensure 6 feet a distance between each person waiting in line. All restrooms should be open to increase dispersion of users among restrooms facilities.
- Lines may not extend out into designated walkways in a way that impedes the flow and/or compromises the ability to appropriately physically distance in those designated walkways.
- For K-12 school sporting activities no concession sales allowed.
- Professional sporting activities, higher education and college sporting activities, major junior hockey, and part-time professional sporting activities without players associations or unions, may utilize Phase 3 Spectator Events guidance in Phase 2 if they operate under an approved league or conference plan.

- School graduation ceremonies may utilize Phase 3 Spectator Events guidance in Phase 2, if they operate under an event health and safety plan for the graduation ceremony. All other aspects of school graduations must follow Department of Health Graduations Guidance:
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/GraduationGuidance.pdf>.

Phase 3:

Outdoor Venues

Outdoor venues with seating that meet the following requirements may exceed 200 people maximum attendance:

- A facility must have individual designated seating capability. Open, unreserved seating not allowed.
- A facility must have controlled entrances and exits and the ability to monitor exact attendance.

An outdoor venue that meets those requirements may:

- Open to a capacity of 25% per section or 9,000 spectators maximum, whichever is lower.
- For smaller facilities up to 400 spectators maximum allowed at 50% capacity. In order to exceed 400 spectators a facility must be able to accommodate over 400 spectators at 25% capacity and capacity must not exceed 9,000 spectators total.
- On April 15, 2021, conditions will be re-evaluated to assess whether a further increase in percentage seating capacity can be allowed.

Additional venue requirements:

- Each facility must have a plan for handling congestion and reducing crowding, including entrance and exits, parking facilities, stairs and elevators, and any areas where lines form. Facility staff will monitor the execution of the plan.
- Tickets must be sold in groups of 1-15. Each group of 1-15 spectators must be 6 feet away (side-to-side and front-to-back) from other groups of 1-15. Groups of 1-15 spectators should come from no more than two different households. Facilities with benches, bleachers or non-numbered seating must block off a portion of seating to ensure groups are distanced.
- Suites or other indoor viewing areas, including dine-in food service areas, limited to 25% capacity and windows are required to be open at all times.
- Outdoor viewing areas without permanent seating (decks, grass berms, eating areas etc.) are limited to one seated group (1-6 people) per 100 square ft. Each group will be in a reserved space, only available to the group or pod who purchased a specific location. Groups of 1-6 should come from no more than two different households. Facility staff must monitor and restrict interactions between groups. Each outdoor viewing area limited to a maximum of 100 spectators. Outdoor viewing areas without reserved seating only allowed if they are a part of a facility that has individual designated seating capability and controlled entrances and exits. Spectators in these areas count towards the total allowed maximum of 9,000 spectators. Bleachers are not considered "outdoor viewing areas" and must be limited to 25% capacity.
- Retail shops subject to current guidelines for in-store retail.
- Removal of masks and facial coverings only allowed while actively eating or drinking in assigned seating.
- Lines for food and beverages must be marked to ensure 6 feet a distance between each person waiting in line.

- Lines for restrooms must be marked to ensure 6 feet a distance between each person waiting in line. All restrooms should be open to increase dispersion of users among restrooms facilities.
- Lines may not extend out into designated walkways in a way that impedes the flow and/or compromises the ability to appropriately physically distance in those designated walkways.
- School graduation ceremonies must follow Department of Health Graduations Guidance: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/GraduationGuidance.pdf>.

Phase 3:

Indoor Venues:

- All indoor sports spectators subject to 50% capacity or 400-person maximum per room, whichever is lower, all participants including performers, athletes, officials, coaches, volunteers and spectators are to be included in calculating the 400-person maximum. Facilities larger than 100,000 square feet allowed 50% capacity or 600 per room, whichever is lower, and all participants including performers, athletes, officials, coaches, volunteers and spectators are to be included in calculating the 600-person maximum.
- Spectator groups from 1-10 people allowed in all facilities, but all spectator groups must maintain 6 feet of distance from other spectator groups.
- Retail shops subject to current guidelines for in-store retail.
- Removal of masks and facial coverings only allowed while actively eating or drinking in assigned seating.
- Lines for food and beverages must be marked to ensure 6 feet a distance between each person waiting in line.
- Lines for restrooms must be marked to ensure 6 feet a distance between each person waiting in line. All restrooms should be open to increase dispersion of users among restrooms facilities.
- Lines may not extend out into designated walkways in a way that impedes the flow and/or compromises the ability to appropriately physically distance in those designated walkways.
- For K-12 school sporting activities no concession sales allowed.
- School graduation ceremonies must follow Department of Health Graduations Guidance: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/GraduationGuidance.pdf>.

Safety and Health Requirements

All facility owners have a general obligation to maintain a safe and healthy workplace in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. Employers must specifically ensure operations follow Labor & Industries COVID-19 requirements to protect workers. COVID-19 workplace and safety requirements can be found [here](#).

Additional information is available at [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) and [Paid Leave under the Washington Family Care Act and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#).